CHAPTER 17

The Fingerprint

"You could go to the bank with the I.D. of that print."
—JOHN FRASER HARRISON

John Fraser Harrison, a veteran who had served in military intelligence and with the Dallas police, became a researcher into the Texas roots of the Kennedy assassination. Studying a "security index" of Texas figures who might bear watching, his attention was drawn to Mac Wallace. On November 22, 1963, Harrison was assigned to the Criminal Intelligence Section of the Special Service Bureau of the Dallas Police Department, investigating extremist groups of the far left and the far right who might make their presence felt during the President's visit. Harrison was asked to perform covert surveillance of a Black Muslim church. Informants had reported that members of this church were planning to create a disturbance somewhere along the parade route.

Harrison was a small, intense man with a piercing gaze and dark blond hair. Thin-lipped, he looked at you shrewdly through giant Coke-bottle eyeglasses. He was a man of his generation, sporting a short 1950s haircut, a man without personal vanity. In his later years, he took on a grizzled look. Like all successful law enforcement officers, Harrison was skilled in making himself seem invisible. He even signed his e-mails ".-," which was Morse code for "J," dot dash, dot dash. (He insisted upon being addressed only with the letter "J," no punctuation, and not as "Harrison.") One would not look at him twice. J Harrison preferred it that way.

John Fraser Harrison was born on November 8, 1933. He grew up in Portland, Maine, the only child of a branch manager for the Burroughs Adding Machine Company. His parents ran the Ogunquit Playhouse, in Ogunquit, Maine, some of whose productions featured Katharine Hepburn, who became a family friend. Harrison's ancestry dated back to five Pilgrim passengers who made the voyage to the New World on the *Mayflower*.

Genealogy would forever beguile him. In later years he became the certified genealogist for the Texas Supreme Court Historical Society.

Early in 1953, Harrison found himself engaged in what he termed "the Korean police action." The Army trained him in intelligence gathering. Returning to the United States, he was assigned to the Joint Chiefs of Staff Communication Center at the Pentagon. He earned all necessary security clearances and for six years participated in a Reserve Strategic Intelligence Research and Analysis (SIRA) team. Along the way he did graduate work at Mac Wallace's alma mater in Austin.

Harrison arrived at the Texas School Book Depository building four minutes after the shots were fired. He compiled a list of all the vehicles parked behind the picket fence where some shots, by copious witness testimony, had been fired, along with their make, model, and license tags. Then he turned his notebook over to the Dallas police. He would never see it again, although he requested its return. Later that day, Harrison served on the guard team for Governor John Connally at the intensive care unit at Parkland Hospital.

On March 25, 1964, Dallas Police sergeant Don Francis Steele, testifying before the Warren Commission, commended "J.F. Harrison" for recognition as the officer who had been with him during the assassination and its aftermath. A year later, Harrison received a certificate of merit for exemplary conduct signed by Dallas Police chief Jesse Curry. On the day of the assassination Curry had remarked to Harrison that the security threat with which he was most concerned was the local Communist Elgin Williams, Mac Wallace's friend who had died in Galveston in 1956.

From the moment of the assassination of John F. Kennedy, Harrison was obsessed with discovering who was behind the heinous deed. He worked in the shadows, viewing personal notoriety as a detriment to a serious investigation. I "creep around unknown," he once said.

"I want to be part of the answer, not part of the problem," Harrison said, "and there are more parts of the problem in this whole scenario than there are parts of the answer." The copious files he created were based on documentary evidence. He even eschewed witness testimony since anyone could lie, anyone might misremember. "The names of the people involved in the Kennedy assassination," Harrison came to believe, "could wrap around the earth five

times." He concluded that at least four people had to have been shooting on November 22. He did not center his suspicions on Lyndon Johnson.

Harrison joined the Unsolved Closed Case Association within the Dallas Police Department. He attended their meetings, discussing the JFK case frequently. He was willing to be wrong, and he urged the young researchers who were his protégés to figure things out for themselves. Rarely did he make definitive statements. He spoke through implication and indirection so that you had to interpret for yourself what he meant. Harrison was likely to call at an odd hour. He seemed always to know where someone was when he needed information.

Often he invited people on field trips to explore assassination sites. He took Doug Horne, the chief analyst in the late 1990s for military records for the Assassination Records and Review Board staff, on a tour of Dallas cemeteries. They visited the graves of Lee Harvey Oswald; J. D. Tippit, the Dallas police officer who was killed shortly after Kennedy's shooting; and Rose Cheramie—real name Melba Marcades—who had been a stripper in Jack Ruby's nightclub. Harrison included the headstone of John Liggett, the mortician whom he suspected of doing restorative art, reconstructing John F. Kennedy's face on the afternoon of the assassination to create autopsy photographs designed to conceal the full measure of the President's wounds.

Liggett numbered among his accomplishments reattaching actress Jayne Mansfield's head after she had been decapitated in an automobile accident. Harrison discovered that Liggett had "died," only for his second wife to peer into his coffin and know: "It was not John." Liggett sought refuge in Las Vegas at Benny Binion's Horseshoe Casino. Harrison suggested to Horne that they co-write a true crime book about Liggett. When he added that Liggett "was so spooked by his JFK experience that he started murdering people," Horne drew back.

For the characters he found most provocative, Harrison created huge white vinyl binders filled with documents. Always he was skeptical about what he read. This passage about Liggett from one of Harrison's white binders reflects his associative thinking:

> He was charged with the "attempted murder" of the widow of Jay Bert Peck. When he left her house he was sure she was already gone from a beating and set her bed on fire. He took her car back to a bar where they had been drinking … Ohh, Jay Bert Peck (her husband)

committed suicide a few years earlier. He was director of security for some guy named Clint Murchison, Sr. The brother also was under investigation for 5 other murders that all had the same MO. One of them was a Dr. Mary Sherman in New Orleans. Dr. Sherman worked with Dr. Alton Ochsner and a researcher on monkeys named David Ferrie. ALL of the murders had the same MO and ALL had connections to an event that took place in Dallas back in 1963.

Harrison's euphemism for Las Vegas was "Lost Wages." "The Mortician's ex-wife swears that she saw him 3 years ago in Lost Wages at Benny Binion's," he asserted. "His brother [Liggett's] has ALL the earmarks of working for a nameless company." The "nameless" company was, of course, CIA. In 1988, Harrison was the first person to obtain President Kennedy's death certificate from the Texas Bureau of Vital Statistics. It was twenty-five years to the day after the assassination, the first moment that it became available to the public.

As the years passed, several of Harrison's white vinyl binders chronicled the life of Mac Wallace. "I don't think Wallace was in a shooting position," he said. Wallace as a historical figure intrigued Harrison, not least because Wallace had been convicted of murder with malice and yet had served no jail time.

Some aspects of Wallace's history did not add up for J Harrison. Wallace had had the temerity to write to J. Edgar Hoover himself, and had requested the assistance of the FBI lab at his trial. Then, although Wallace had been convicted of premeditated murder, he found a job with TEMCO, a major defense contractor. Harrison was puzzled by Wallace's obtaining the SECRET security clearance required. A friend on the Dallas Police Department's intelligence unit slipped Mac Wallace's classified Naval Intelligence file into Harrison's hands, which is how it became available to the author.

He compiled genealogies of the Wallace family. He copied pages from the *Crusader*, the Woodrow Wilson High School yearbook; and from the University of Texas annual, the *Cactus*; and the divorce petitions and divorce decrees of Mac and Andre Wallace. He received a copy of Mac Wallace's much-amended death certificate. A separate file was devoted to Wallace's will and the unexplained appearance in probate court of Jerry Neal Wallace a second time, thirteen years after Wallace's death. One binder was devoted to

the life of John Douglas Kinser, complete with a genealogy. Harrison enjoyed the irony that his own mother and Kinser resided in the same cemetery.

For eight years, Harrison attempted to pry Mac Wallace's FBI file from the hands of the government. To his Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, the Bureau finally replied on September 30, 1998, with a blizzard of paper. Nearly half the writing was buried beneath heavy black redactions. Harrison imagined ominous revelations. Yet when Wallace's FBI file was reprocessed in 2014 and sent to the author unredacted, there were no "smoking guns." There are no references to Lyndon Johnson, except a note that Johnson was the employer of one of the Bureau's informants, Horace Busby.

Harrison also studied the testimony provided by Billie Sol Estes and Madeleine Brown, who had joined with Estes in his vendetta against Lyndon Johnson:

1. The party (if any took place) was at Clint Murchison Sr.'s house on the night of November 21, 1963. *(*Madeleine Brown's recounting of that party at which Lyndon Johnson revealed to her his foreknowledge of the Kennedy assassination did not strike J as valid.)
2. The host (if a party took place) was Clint Murchison Jr.
3. Murchison Sr. was in Athens, Texas, or at the Mexico ranch on that evening.
4. Murchison Sr. did not own the Dallas Cowboys; that was Murchison Jr.

Yet J Harrison took seriously Estes' accusations: "LBJ et al. were implicated in the multiple 'assassinations' by the Caddy/DOJ communications in August 1984," he wrote in one of his Wallace binders, "20 YEARS AGO … AND accepted in the death of Henry Marshall, thereby changing his death from a suicide to a MURDER!" That Harrison had his doubts is reflected in the quotation marks around "assassinations." He did not name Mac Wallace, nor did he mention Wallace in connection with Marshall's death.

J Harrison remained perplexed by Wallace's death certificate, which was so replete with errors. Rumors wafted out of East Texas. Following the death on May 10, 1975, of her husband, Delmer Lee Akin, Andre had moved to a rental duplex in Georgetown, Texas. According to one of Harrison's sources

in the Dallas Police Criminal Investigation Division (CID), "Mac Wallace" visited Andre right up to her death on June 5, 1980, at the age of fifty-six.

"I've got proof that Wallace survived the crash," Harrison told historian Walt Brown, author of several books about the JFK assassination, and with whom J was working closely.

Andre did welcome a dark-haired male visitor when she was suffering the final stages of breast cancer, and this man looked remarkably like Mac Wallace. It was their son, Michael, a dead ringer for his father, except that Michael wore glasses only for reading. His mother never mentioned seeing his father. Michael Wallace is certain that she would have told him had Mac Wallace appeared on her doorstep after his "death."

Harrison took to sleeping with a gun under his pillow. When he went out, he took his gun. "You can't be too careful," he said. He began to carry copies of his most sensitive files in the trunk of his car. One day somebody broke into the car and stole the files. Normally self-contained, he was visibly shaken, according to his friend Malcolm Blunt, who talked to him right after it happened.

Harrison had made a living selling real estate. When the market crashed, he fell on hard times. For a while he lived in an old bread truck, and then a trailer. It was so overflowing with files that there was no room for a bed and he slept on the couch. He was a man with a cause, his days leavened by laughter at the absurdities he was uncovering. Growing old occasioned irony. "At age seventy-four some people forget things," he said. "Others remember things that never happened."

In the 1990s, Harrison had an investigative brainstorm. Born of the anomalies he discovered in the history of Mac Wallace, fueled by Billie Sol Estes' connecting Wallace to the Kennedy assassination, he looked into Wallace's whereabouts on November 22, 1963. Wallace putatively had been a protégé of Lyndon Johnson, the individual who profited most from the death of President Kennedy. Since Johnson was not known to have done favors for anyone without profiting substantially in return and Johnson's favors for Wallace may include Bob Long's desultory prosecution, the job at TEMCO, and the SECRET security clearance, might not Wallace have accomplished for him the ultimate favor?

There was that single fingerprint collected by the FBI from the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository on the day of the assassination that had

never been identified. In the custody of the Warren Commission, it was designated as "Print 29" and had been lifted from "Box A," a carton sitting at the edge of the entrance to the sixth floor. Print 29 had been labeled "indistinct characteristics." Harrison contacted the National Archives in search of "Warren Commission Exhibit 656." This print was described as belonging to "an unknown person."

Harrison's plan was to obtain Mac Wallace's fingerprint card from the Austin Department of Public Safety, which had taken his prints when he was arrested for the murder of John Douglas Kinser. Then he would arrange for experts to compare it to Print 29. The fragility of a fingerprint on a carton meant that the latent had to have been created within ten days of the Kennedy assassination. After ten days, prints disappear from corrugated cartons, which are made of absorbent paper. The print most likely had been made within twenty-four hours of the murder of President Kennedy.

Even with Harrison's contacts in the Austin Police Department, it was not easy for him to obtain Wallace's prints. To gain access to public documents, the subject had to have been dead for twenty-five years. Mac Wallace had died on January 7, 1971. On the day before the twenty-fifth anniversary of Wallace's death, Harrison filed for the fingerprint card.

To Texas Attorney General Dan Morales, J Harrison described himself as "a person working on a statistical or research project." He included with his letter a copy of Mac Wallace's death certificate. On March 22, 1996, he met with Ben Kyser, manager of the Fingerprint and Records Services of the Texas Department of Public Safety. Unwilling to take responsibility, Kyser then turned Harrison's request over to Ron M. Pigott, assistant general counsel of the Texas Department of Public Safety.

Pigott was reluctant to authorize the release of the print because J Harrison was not the "estate representative" for Mac Wallace. He was concerned that "if the Department releases this information to people who do not have a special right of access to it, the criminal history record of information of Mr. Wallace will become public information open to inspection by all." Harrison then appealed to Craig Leavers, the open records investigator at the office of the Texas attorney general. He left messages at the attorney general's office on July 8, 10, 11, 12, and 22, 1996.

On July 26, Pigott sent Harrison a certified copy of the inked fingerprint card of Malcolm Everett Wallace that had been rolled on October 22, 1951.

At least one other set of Wallace prints was in existence, those taken by the Navy at the time he joined the U.S. Marines. For those prints to be released, the person had to have left the service sixty-two years earlier. Wallace was discharged from the Marine Corps on August 28, 1940. Only in 2002 at the earliest could J Harrison have obtained Wallace's Navy fingerprints.

With the Austin prints and Warren Commission Exhibit 656, provided by the National Archives, in hand, Harrison approached a seasoned certified latent print examiner named Nathan Darby. Darby had worked for the Austin Police Department for years. He had begun in fingerprint analysis in 1942, when he was in military service. In 1948, he was awarded credentials by the International Association for Identification as a Certified Latent Print Examiner, the primary certifying organization that conferred authority on the examiner. In 1951, Wallace's fingerprints had come to Darby's attention in connection with the Kinser trial.

J Harrison requested of Darby that he compare Wallace's prints with the one discovered on the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository to determine whether they belonged to the same person. He did not mention the name "Mac Wallace" nor reveal to Darby that the task had anything to do with the Kennedy assassination. Darby said he would charge no fee.

Darby reported fourteen matching prints between the two sets of prints.

On March 9, 1998, Nathan Darby wrote an official letter to J Harrison. His letterhead described him as "Lieutenant Commander retired, Identification Criminal Records, Photography Laboratory, Austin Police Department":

> Dear Mr. J Harrison
>
> You provided me a photocopy of an inked fingerprint for comparison to a photocopy of a latent print. You also provided me with a photocopy of a standard fingerprint card with inked fingerprints on the card. The origin of the inked print, latent print, and the fingerprint card are unknown to me.
>
> I examined the inked print, now exhibit DAN #3, and the latent print, now exhibit DAN #4, and found identifying points.
>
> Based on my comparison, I concluded that the person who produced the inked fingerprint, exhibit DAN #3 also produced the latent fingerprint, exhibit DAN #4.
>
> I examined exhibit DAN #5 and found print #10 on exhibit #5 to be the same print as DAN #3. The position of the finger in space #10 on the fingerprint card represents the finger

to be the left littler finger. Other spacings on exhibit DAN #5 were produced by the left little finger of the same person unknown to me.

I can not testify to the origin or the source of any of the exhibits DAN #3, DAN #4, or DAN #5.

Very truly yours,

Nathan Darby

Three days later, Darby swore out a more detailed affidavit. He stated that the unknown person who provided the inked print of his left little finger for the Austin police was the same person who made the latent on the carton at the School Book Depository. He declared that he had discovered fourteen matching points, going with his original determination and aware that the FBI guideline was eight matches for a credible identification; the U.S. Courts preferred ten to twelve matches.

Still, Darby was not satisfied. He worked for another year, color-coding the latent supplied by the Archives in red, green, and blue. Because the subject had been sweating, and had been tense, Darby explained, moisture adhered to the Texas School Book Depository print. There was a black smudge, sharply defining the ridges and valleys. After the color-coding, Darby said he found thirty-four points of match. Only now was Darby informed of the identity of the person whose prints he had been examining.

One day, visiting the dentist, Darby ran into an acquaintance from the Austin police department. He remarked that he had been working on a fingerprint identification that traced back to Mac Wallace. “Drop it! Leave it alone!” the police acquaintance said.

“It would be my dying declaration,” said Darby, a small, vibrant grey-haired man, passionate in his convictions. “They match! They match!” he exclaimed on a video created by French journalist William Reymond. On that film Darby announces thirty points of match.

Cautious, Harrison sought a second opinion. He brought the prints to E. Harold Hoffmeister, who also claimed to be a certified latent print examiner and who worked for the Texas Department of Public Safety. Hoffmeister too had been certified by the International Association for Identification. He did accept a fee—a check for five hundred dollars from Barr McClellan, who was then working with J Harrison. Hoffmeister signed a “contract of

employment." He promised to "compare developed latent impressions with known impressions to establish identity."

At first, Hoffmeister concurred with Darby. He attested to the same points that Darby had claimed matched between the Warren Commission print and the Austin police print. Dated April 15, 1998, Hoffmeister's affidavit reads:

> It is my opinion that an unknown latent print I compared with the inked fingerprint impression of a subject unknown to me at this time matches the left little fingerprint of this subject.
>
> I concur with the marked exhibits of a latent print and rolled fingerprint given to me and done by an unknown CLPE.
>
> E. H. Hoffmeister
>
> I have examined the rolled inked impressions of Malcolm Everett Wallace & they match the rolled inked impressions I compared with the latent print.
>
> E. Hoffmeister. Mr. J. Harrison, 4-15-98.

Hoffmeister initialed his copy of the latent, along with fourteen matches pointing to the matching ridges he had identified. He initialed four pages of print impressions.

It seemed that as soon as he learned whose prints he had examined, and that the Kennedy assassination was involved, Hoffmeister recanted. The next day, he wrote:

> After Mr. Harrison left, I continued to analize [sic] the two prints (inked and latent) and the longer I looked at them the more questioned [sic] I became. Some points matched and they didn't. Then ALL points matched. Then NO points matched. I then realized that both the other CLPE and I were having to make mental decisions due to the fact that we were dealing with unknown generations of COPIES of the latent and NOT THE ORIGINAL.

Concluding that Hoffmeister had changed his mind out of fear, J Harrison forged ahead. He sent the Darby findings and exhibits to the homicide division of the Dallas police. They then turned the materials over to the FBI. Eighteen months later, the FBI responded with a telephone call. The print match was in error, they said. The Bureau sent no written documentation either to their Dallas field office or to the Dallas Police Department. If Bureau protocols demanded that their obligation was to contact Nathan

Darby directly, outlining their reasons for deciding that the prints did not match, this time they were silent. Customarily the Bureau backed certified experts. On this occasion, with no explanation, they rejected the expert's findings.

J Harrison concealed Darby's name at the 1998 press conference announcing the identification of the print. In the spring of 2003, according to Austin lawyer Dawn Meredith, who had befriended Darby, his home was robbed. The security alarm was bypassed. The only item missing was a file relating to Mac Wallace's fingerprint that resided under Darby's bed.

"You could go to the bank with the I.D. of that print," Harrison told anyone who asked.

After the Darby fingerprint identification was announced, there were efforts to determine Mac Wallace's whereabouts on the day of the Kennedy assassination. He ought to have been in Anaheim, where he continued to work for Ling Electronics. Reporter William P. Barrett, writing for the *Dallas Times Herald,* says Mac Wallace was "untrackable" for the day of the assassination.

In California, Wallace was separated from his new wife, Virginia Ledgerwood, and living with his son. Michael recalls that almost certainly Wallace was home for dinner on November 22, 1963. Michael was fifteen years old; he was distressed that the President had been killed in Texas, that people were blaming Texas, which he considered still his home. Wallace attempted to console him, trying to make the distraught boy feel better.

Michael does not recall what time Wallace arrived home on the night of November 22, but he feels certain that he was there. "I would bet my paycheck," he told the author. Michael went on to a career in Southern California law enforcement, retiring after thirty years of service. His uprightness and his religious sensibility enhance his credibility. "We had the first discussion on the night of the assassination," Michael Wallace repeated to the author.

Despite his faith in the fingerprint identification, J Harrison never came to believe that Lyndon Johnson was behind the assassination. He never subscribed to Billie Sol Estes' accusation. "I never suspected Johnson and still don't," Harrison said. If anything, he added, Johnson was "in a very small pyramid that's inside the pyramid of who was actually involved." Even if Johnson had foreknowledge of the assassination—and Harrison was skeptical

about Madeleine Brown's description of the party the night before at which the guest list seemed to be endlessly shifting—he was "not at the top of the pyramid."

There was something unnerving about the fingerprint identifications supplied by Darby and Hoffmeister. Even if their conclusions that the Austin and Warren Commission prints belong to the same person were correct, there remains the question of motive. A lifelong liberal, Mac Wallace would have had nothing against John F. Kennedy, no reason to harm him. Only his connection to Lyndon Johnson could conceivably have involved him in this crime.

This at once raises the issue of whether Johnson, ordinarily so careful about leaving footprints in his activities, would have enlisted someone who could easily be connected to him, and placed this person at the scene of the crime. The death of Sam Smithwick in his cell after summoning Coke Stevenson to confess what he knew about Box 13 and the credibility of the 1948 election for U.S. senator suggests that there were anonymous hit men, sheriffs, and deputy sheriffs aplenty lurking and on call in the sagebrush. It seems unlikely and illogical that Johnson would have sent Mac Wallace to implement the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

In May 2013, rendered uneasy by the fingerprint identification, I contacted an independent certified latent print examiner to verify the findings of Nathan Darby and Harold Hoffmeister. In all the books that used Wallace's presence at the Texas School Book Depository as evidence to implicate Lyndon Johnson in the assassination, no one had revisited the fingerprint analysis. Each book repeated, virtually by rote, what had been written before.

The certified latent print examiner I hired was Robert Garrett and he had enjoyed a long career in law enforcement in New Jersey, where he had been a senior crime scene analyst and "reconstructionist." He had been supervisor of the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office crime scene unit.

Garrett had been trained in fingerprint analysis at FBI headquarters when they were located in downtown Washington, D.C., and then at the FBI laboratory at Quantico, Virginia. Now he was in charge of certification programs for the International Association for Identification, which still certifies all latent print examiners and is the singular accrediting institution.

I adopted J Harrison's approach and did not inform Garrett about whose print he would be examining. I did not mention that the Kennedy assassination was in any way connected to the fingerprint. When I handed him Harrison's Darby file, Garrett hesitated. He observed that Darby had worked from photocopies. Garrett insisted that he could not work with a photocopy of the latent, the Warren Commission exhibit. He required either a negative or a first-generation photograph of the latent print.

A photograph of the latent taken in 1963 by the FBI resided at the National Archives. It was of superior quality, and available to anyone who requested it.

Enough time had passed so that the Navy was willing to release Mac Wallace's military file from the National Archives in St. Louis. All I required were Wallace's military service number and his Social Security number, both of which J Harrison had included in his Wallace records. The Navy had produced a sharp, clear copy of Wallace's fingerprints that had been taken when he enlisted in the U.S. Marines in 1939.

From the documents in Harrison's files, the tracings, photocopies, and diagrams of the matches Nathan Darby had marked, it was apparent that Darby had relied on the old black-and-white model of fingerprint identification. Yet, without the gray scale, features were lost. What was required to determine whether it was Mac Wallace's print that had been discovered at the Texas School Book Depository was a first-generation photograph and the digital technology that had taken over the field of fingerprint identification. Garrett's methodology came under the heading of "digital forensics," a technology that had not yet been available in 1998 and could take into account multiple levels of gray.

At once Garrett noticed, as had Harold Hoffmeister, that there was a problem with the Austin fingerprints. These had been smudged because the roller used to make the inked print had not been thoroughly cleaned off after its use with the previous subject. Luckily, I was able to provide Garrett with the Navy prints, which are of a higher quality than those taken by local police departments.

Garrett determined that the prints taken by the Navy and those taken by the Austin police in 1951 at the time of the shooting of John Douglas Kinser belonged to the same person. But as for the print known as Warren Commission Exhibit 656, Print 29, of a left little finger, sent by the National

Archives in high resolution, this print belonged to someone else entirely. I was as excited as J Harrison must have been when Nathan Darby told him there was a match. So my skepticism had been warranted.

The 256 levels of gray that Garrett discovered from his enhanced digital scan of the latent sent by the archives were not present in the image from which Nathan Darby drew his analysis. Based on these shadings, there were clear "discrepancies," the term Garrett used, between the two sets of Wallace prints and the unidentified print residing among the Warren Commission exhibits.

A "discrepancy," Garrett writes in his report, represents the friction ridge detail in one impression that does not exist in the corresponding area of another impression. In his "Analysis of Discrepancies," Garrett concludes:

> Target feature: There is, in both the Wallace left little finger (#10) print and latent print CE 656, #29, a short ridge five ridge counts below the delta. This feature will be used to locate all other features or discrepancies between the two prints.
>
> A. Four ridges up from the target feature in the latent is a ridge to the right. This is absent in the Wallace print.
> B. Five ridges up from the target feature in the latent is a ridge ending to the right. This is absent in the Wallace print.
> C. Two ridges up from the target feature in the latent is a ridge ending to the right. This is absent in the Wallace print.
> D. Two ridges up from the target feature in the Wallace print is a ridge ending to the right. This is absent in the latent print.
> E. Two ridges up from the target feature in the Wallace print is a ridge ending to the right. This is absent in the latent print.
> F. Four ridges up from the target feature in the latent is a ridge ending to the right. This is absent in the Wallace print.
> G. Seven ridges up from the target feature in the latent is a bifurcation to the left. This is absent in the Wallace print.
> H. Eleven ridges up from the target feature in the latent is a ridge ending to the right. This is absent in the Wallace print.

Each of these discrepancies is sufficient to exclude Wallace number 10 as the source of CE 656 number 29. Other discrepancies exist but have not been

documented in the image for the sake of clarity.

Garrett found the fingerprints released by the Austin Police Department all but unusable. He wrote in his report, comparing the Austin print which Darby and Hoffmeister used the latent:

> Although 14 minutiae are marked on both impressions, 2, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 & 14 are indistinct on impression E. This may be due to copy artifacts, but nonetheless, they can't be used as reliable identifiable features. That leaves only 7 remaining features on which to rely. When these 7 features are plotted and plots compared, it is easy to see that the alignments are off. This can sometimes be attributed to distortion occurring at the time of deposition. However, there are no indicators of distortion in either D or E.

Garrett concluded, having determined that CE 656 number 29 was "a developed latent fingerprint":

> These images, provided by the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration, are far superior to the copies of the image previously provided. The images from the National Archives are of sufficient quality to be inserted into an automated fingerprint identification system (AFIS) and checked against existing fingerprint databases. An examination of these high resolution images and a comparison to the recorded fingerprint record of Malcolm Everett (M. E.) Wallace from the United States Marine Corps, allows me to conclude without any doubt that CE 656 number 29 was not made by the little finger (#10) of Malcolm Wallace.

Garrett took the additional step of comparing CE 656 number 29 to each of Mac Wallace's remaining nine fingers. None matched. None of his fingers could be the source of CE 656.

Whoever was up there on the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository wearing heavy, dark horn-rimmed glasses and observed by steel worker Richard Randolph Carr, who was standing on an adjacent scaffolding at Dealey Plaza, in an effort to apply for employment, there is no credible evidence that it was Mac Wallace. Carr had been on the construction elevator of the new Dallas County Courthouse, seven floors above the ground. He had observed two men run from behind the wooden fence where some shots came. One, a "dark complexioned white male about 5′ 8″, heavyset, [wore] dark rimmed glasses." Carr said he saw this man in "horn-rimmed glasses, in

the second window of the top floor of the Texas School Book Depository." There is no credible evidence that it was Mac Wallace.

"It's obvious that these are not prints of the same person," Garrett said. "The unidentified print held in the Warren Commission exhibits did not belong to Mac Wallace. Darby and Hoffmeister were pointing out things that weren't there." Garrett added that he would have come to the same conclusion just by comparing the smudged Austin prints with the Warren Commission latent. Adding the Navy prints only confirmed his conclusion.

Garrett discovered that in 1998 Nathan Darby had not been a certified latent print examiner after all. He had perjured himself on his affidavit when he wrote: "I hold the designation of Certified Latent Fingerprint Examiner (#78–468), which is issued by the International Association for Identification." Darby's certification had expired on November 6, 1984. Darby had even written a letter to his own file stating that he did not intend to recertify. In 1998 he had not been a certified examiner for fourteen years.

Certifications were valid only for five years. Then, to recertify, continued work experience and education credits were required, along with passing a recertification examination. Darby had been grandfathered into the certification program in 1978, which meant that he had been awarded a certification based on his training and experience, but had not been required to pass a test. This practice had been abandoned after Darby's certification had expired. As for Harold Hoffmeister, his certification had lapsed on October 30, 1996, and he had made no effort to renew it.

In passing, I showed Bob Garrett the composite created by gas station attendant Nolan Griffin at the time of the murder of Henry Marshall. Garrett saw no particular resemblance between the man in horn-rimmed glasses with a round face and kinky hair and Mac Wallace. "It could have been anyone," Garrett said. In his accusations, Billie Sol Estes never mentioned Wallace as the figure in the composite. All he said was, "Some said the sketch resembled me, but I never had acne scars."

Griffin had noted scars on the man's face. Although Mac Wallace suffered a serious skin infection when he dropped out of the Columbia University School of Law, the Neal Douglass photographs taken of him at the Kinser trial reveal no facial scars. Neither Michael Wallace nor Nora Ann Carroll remember scars on Mac Wallace's face. They were not informed by me why scars were an issue.

Uneasy, J Harrison attempted under a 1998 FOIA request to obtain further Mac Wallace fingerprint filings, including the one from the U.S. Marine Corps. He sought fingerprints from the Dallas police, from the Office of Naval Intelligence, from Ling Electronics, from Luscombe Airplane Corporation, from the Department of Agriculture, and from the Department of State. None of these were forthcoming.

There is no credible evidence that Wallace had anything to do with the Kennedy assassination. Since the identification of Wallace's fingerprint has been the primary "evidentiary" basis for the contention that Lyndon Johnson was involved in the implementation of the assassination, there is no evidence that Johnson was a participant either.